

I was pleased to receive the letter from Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster and look forward to continuing a robust dialogue with him. This letter highlights the commitment to protect public health that EPA shares with the State of Missouri. I am working every day to ensure a close and professional state-federal partnership that will continue our number one priority to protect public health. The complementary regulatory authorities held by the State and EPA will continue to hold the responsible parties to their duties. For example, the State's lead in compelling Republic Services to control the subsurface smoldering event better enables EPA to compel Republic to isolate that event from the West Lake landfill. In addition, EPA expects soon to conclude an agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to enlist Corps construction management expertise for the isolation barrier to separate West Lake from the subsurface smoldering event. EPA will continue to work closely with our partners to accomplish the mutual goal of protecting the public from environmental contaminants, regardless of their location within this Superfund site. We are committed to keeping the public informed with accurate and timely information. I responded today to the letter from Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster regarding our work at the West Lake site. That letter is online at: http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm